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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/624,791	07/21/2003	George Benedict	29653-701	9427
22470	7590	09/29/2004	EXAMINER	
HAYNES BEFFEL & WOLFELD LLP			LEE, PATRICK J	
P O BOX 366			ART UNIT	
HALF MOON BAY, CA 94019			PAPER NUMBER	
			2878	

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/624,791	Applicant(s) BENEDICT, GEORGE	
	Examiner Patrick J. Lee	Art Unit 2878	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-86 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 38-86 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 and 28-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-37 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. Figures 1-3 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.121(d)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the examiner does not accept the changes, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the patterned optical element encoding positions on the *second* beam as stated in claims 4 & 28 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered. As a result, independent claims 4 & 28 and dependent claims 5-27 & 29-37 are objected.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement-drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet,

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and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the examiner does not accept the changes, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato et al 6,046,448.

With respect to claim 1, Sato et al disclose an optical scanning microscope comprising light sources (11, 12), probe (1), lens (3), piezoelectric driver (18), and light detectors (7, 13). The beam emitted by light source (11) constitutes a first beam while the beam emitted by light source (12) constitutes a second beam that couples to an optical probe (1) as an optical conduit. The intensity of the beam received by light source (12) encodes the position of probe (1) and is measured by detector (13). Bending of conduit (1) is accomplished by piezoelectric driver (18) in order to ensure

that the distance between the probe end and sample stage (2) stays substantially constant. Sato et al also discloses a lens (3) for modifying the first beam that exits the distal end of conduit (1) (see column 6, lines 21-42).

With respect to claims 2-3, Sato et al disclose a controller (16) to control the piezoelectric drives (15, 18).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 4-25 & 28-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al 6,046,448.

With respect to claims 4-7, 17, & 28-32, Sato et al disclose the system as described in the discussion of claims 1-3. However, Sato et al do not explicitly disclose the use of a patterned optical element. To modify the teachings of Sato et al accordingly would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art as the patterned optical element would grant the device the ability to accurately distinguish position of the conduit.

With respect to claims 8-14, 22-23 & 33, Sato et al do not explicitly disclose specifics of the optical probe (1); however, to modify the teachings of Sato et al accordingly would have been obvious as a functional equivalent as optical probe (1) is used to deliver light from source (11) to sample (2).

With respect to claim 15, Sato et al does not explicitly disclose the use of a capacitor plate, but such would have been a functional equivalent of detector (13) as both are used to detect the second beam that encodes position of probe (1)

With respect to claims 16, 18-21, & 34, such modifications would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, as they would have constituted a functional equivalent to piezoelectric driver (18).

With respect to claims 24-25, Sato et al disclose light sources (11, 12), detectors (7, 13), and lens (3) to be optically coupled to probe (1).

With respect to claims 35-37, Sato et al do not explicitly disclose the pattern of scanning. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Sato et al accordingly in order to optimize the scanning ability based on the situation and preferences of scanning.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 26-27 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

With respect to claim 26, Sato et al does not disclose nor suggest the position sensing detector being optically coupled to light exiting the optical conduit.

With respect to claim 27, Sato et al do not disclose nor suggest the use of a chamber to maintain the pressure difference.

Conclusion


9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick J. Lee whose telephone number is (571) 272-2440. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David P. Porta can be reached on (571) 272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patrick J. Lee
Examiner
Art Unit 2878

PJL
September 3rd, 2004


Stephone B. Allen
Primary Examiner